

A Stellar Journey Across the Imagination: CDMHS's "Peter and the Starcatcher"
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How did Peter Pan become Peter Pan? To answer this question, Corona del Mar's "Peter and the Starcatcher" whisks audiences off on a whimsical journey of friendship, duty, and of course, magic, that reminds us our dreams come alive when we come together.

Dania Obaidi flawlessly encapsulates the youthful spirit of the passionate starcatcher-in-training Molly Aster. Her posh British accent and precise articulation convincingly demonstrate Molly's proper upbringing and intelligence, while her excited tone and subtle snarky vocal inflection showcase her imaginative, headstrong side.

Ashley Larocca is simply hilarious as the "food-obsessed" Ted. Dreaming of pork, Larocca repeats the word over to herself, dwelling on the vowel and savoring each sound as if the word itself tasted of a magnificent baked pig. Quick to poke fun at her hungry fantasies is Prentiss (Brooklyn Hamilton), the self-proclaimed leader of the two. With a smug smile and upturned nose, Hamilton carries herself with an air of superiority that works in masterful tandem with the juvenile nature of her babbling counterpart to form a comical duo of boyish youth.

The fantastical Mollusks, Neverland's native inhabitants, not only command the stage with their biting battle cries and wary expressions, but also allure audiences with faces of all sorts of vibrant colors. With an intricate airbrush design impressively applied in only fifteen minutes by the talented CDMHS Hair and Makeup crew, (Natt Ashworth and Sophie Bucher,) each Mollusk's face is decorated with an incredible attention to detail that effectively immerses the audience in their exotic charm.

Transforming from a rugged ship to a magical island, the CDMHS set team's two-ton, eight-foot-tall set is as visually stunning as it is versatile. With hand-painted wood graining on the front and elaborate murals of luscious mountain landscapes on the back, the set effectively transports audiences straight past the second star to the right.

Cleverly utilizing the school's coastal location, CDMHS's Publicity Team (Dylan McCann, Sam Justin, and Nolan Crane) conducted a unique photo shoot at Big Corona Beach to publicize their show when bereft of a finished set until tech week. Along with their curated TikTok presence and adorable visits to local elementary schools, CDMHS certainly got people excited for their wonderful show.

With incredible tech and phenomenal acting, the company of CDMHS's "Peter and the Starcatcher" fashions a playful performance for both children and children-at-heart alike.